

Spectrum

All in a day's work

Civilian to Signal Warrior

The latest class of 13, one-day wonders set aside their normal routine in Augusta to become a Signal Soldier Feb. 20.

The class included four Columbia county educators in the one-day session of Augustans In Army Boots.

Executives with the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce and the director of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce were part of the 13-member group to experience Army life with the 35th Signal Brigade at Fort Gordon.

The day started with breakfast in the Army dining facility included qualification with the M-16 rifle, and participation in a field exercise.

The graduation ceremony was held in Alexander Hall, on Chamberlain Avenue. Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general awarded participants with a uniform cap, certificates and gold bars designating them honorary lieutenants.



Photo by Capt. Sharron Stewart

(Above) Civilian leaders stand up for a class photo during the last minutes before their one-day conversion into Signal Warriors on Feb. 20 at Fort Gordon. (Right) 2nd Lt. Omari Harmon, HHC 35th Signal Brigade, marches the new recruits to the military vehicles that will take them to Range 1 to qualify with their weapons. (Below) The civilian Soldiers queue up for ammunition clips on the way to the firing range.



Photo by Spc. Garland Smith



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(Above right) The Augusta in Army Boots participants have completed breakfast, are fully outfitted and ready to move to the firing range, and into field exercises (above left) that include assault operations, and (below left) clearing buildings in an urban warfare scenario. (Below) The intense day concluded with a graduation ceremony in Alexander Hall, where Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general assisted by Col. Juan Rosa, 35th Signal Brigade deputy commander presents certificates, a memorial cap and honorary commissions to the Soldiers.



Photo by Spc. William Norris